

REMARKS

In the June 16, 2004, Office Action, the Abstract of the Disclosure was objected to because of the use of the phrase " is disclosed" in the first sentence of the Abstract of the Disclosure.

Claims 1-17 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-22 of U. S. Patent No. 6,618,965.

Accompanying this response is a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR Sections 1.321(b) and (c) to overcome the double patenting rejection of Claims 1-17. The conflicting U.S. Patent No. 6,618,965 is assigned to Sno-Way International, Inc., the assignee of the present patent application.

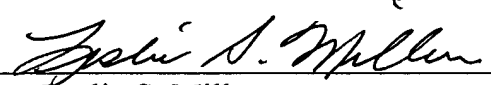
In view of the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer and the common ownership of the cited patent No. 6,618,965, the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-17 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, Claims 1-17 remain pending and are believed to be in condition for allowance at this time. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, with an early and favorable decision being solicited. Should the Examiner

believe that the prosecution of the application could be expedited, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted:

BY


Leslie S. Miller
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 30,662

Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c.
1000 North Water Street, Suite 2100
Milwaukee, WI 53202

(414) 298-8321

Customer No. 22922

MW/1134871